

CLAIMS – MARKED UP VERSION

1. (Currently Amended) A pre-fabricated multi-purpose construction panel comprising:

a plurality of parallel vertical stud members of generally equal length possessing a first terminal end and a second terminal end;

at least one reinforcement member means for reinforcing said plurality of studs comprising a unitary elongated metal plate-like member formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs terminating in a first end and a second end, said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end; a first flange extending perpendicularly upwards from said first end and a second flange extending perpendicularly upward from said second end to permit fastening to the adjacent studs, said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis, said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange, said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange extends to and overlaps the adjacent parallel upright studs which define the width of said elongated plate-like member located between each stud member whereby said panel can support excessive loads due to weight, wind, or sheer forces; and a panel frame comprised of one or more horizontal or vertical expansion-contracting means slideably attached to said parallel stud members whereby said panel will be able to

expand or contract in respect to horizontal or vertical environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) A pre-fabricated multi-purpose construction panel as defined in claim 1 wherein one of the horizontal expansion-contracting means is slideably attached to said first terminal end of said parallel stud members and another is slideably attached to said second terminal end of said parallel stud members whereby said panel will be able to expand or contract in response to vertical environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

3. (Currently Amended) A pre-fabricated multi-purpose construction panel as defined in claim 1 wherein one ~~or more~~ of the vertical expansion-contraction means is slideably attached to a first vertical end of said one or more of ~~the vertical~~ said parallel stud members, and another is slideably attached to a second vertical end of said parallel stud members perpendicular to one or more of the horizontal expansion-contraction means.

4. (Currently Amended) A pre-fabricated multi-purpose construction ~~assembly~~ panel as defined in claim 1 wherein a said vertical and horizontal expansion-contraction means are slideably attached to each other.

5. (Canceled) A ~~multi-purpose construction assembly as defined in claim 2 wherein a second vertical expansion-contraction means is slideably attached to a first terminal vertical stud member and slideably attached to said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and slideably~~

attached to said anchor means whereby said assembly will be able to expand or contract in response to vertical and horizontal environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

6. (Canceled) A multi-purpose construction assembly as defined in claim 5 wherein a second vertical expansion-contraction means is slideably attached to a second terminal vertical stud member and slideably attached to said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and slideably attached to said anchor means whereby said assembly will be able to expand or contract in response to vertical and horizontal environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

7. (Previously Presented) A multi-purpose construction panel comprising:
a plurality of parallel stud members of decreasing length possessing first terminal ends which forms the hypotenuse of a triangle, and second terminal ends

a means for reinforcing said plurality of studs comprising a unitary elongated metal plate-like member formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs terminating in a first end and a second end, said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end; a first flange extending perpendicularly upwards from said first end and a second flange extending perpendicularly upward from said second end to permit fastening to the adjacent studs, said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis, said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a

second downward flange, said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange extends to and overlaps the adjacent parallel upright studs which define the width of said elongated plate-like member located between each stud member whereby said assembly can support excessive loads due to weight, wind, or shear forces; and

one or more horizontal or vertical expansion-contraction means are slideably attached to said parallel stud members whereby said panel will be able to expand or contract in response to horizontal or vertical environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

8. (Previously Presented) A multi-purpose construction panel as defined in claim 7 wherein:

a first expansion-contraction assembly is slideably attached to the first terminal ends;

a second expansion-contraction assembly is slideably attached to the second terminal ends; and

a third expansion-contraction assembly is slidably attached to the longest parallel stud member.

9. (Currently Amended) The pre-fabricated multi-purpose construction assembly panel defined in claim 1 wherein the means for reinforcing reinforcement member ~~said plurality of studs further~~ comprises a box-like structured formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange; and

said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.

10. (Previously Presented) The multi-purpose construction panel defined in claim 7 wherein the means for reinforcing said plurality of studs further comprises a box-like structure formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange;

said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a pre-fabricated multi-purpose construction panel comprising:

placing a plurality of generally equal length stud members possessing first and second terminal ends generally parallel to each other;

attaching a first expansion-contraction means to said first terminal ends;

attaching a second expansion-contraction means to said second terminal end;

attaching a first vertical expansion-contraction means to one of said plurality of stud members;

attaching a second vertical expansion-contraction means to another of said plurality of stud members; and

inserting a at least one means to reinforcement member ~~reinforce the the parallel studs~~ between said parallel studs.

12. (Canceled) ~~A method of constructing a multi-purpose construction assembly comprising:~~

~~—— placing a plurality of stud members possessing a first terminal end and second terminal end parallel to each other;~~

~~—— attaching a first horizontal expansion-compression means to the first terminal end of said parallel stud members;~~

~~—— attaching a second horizontal expansion-compression means to the second terminal end of said parallel stud members;~~

~~—— inserting a means to reinforce the parallel studs between each pair of parallel studs.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein attaching said first and second expansion-contraction means comprises ~~are~~ slideably ~~attached~~ attaching them to each other.

14. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 11 wherein said first and second vertical expansion-contraction means are slideably attached.~~

15. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 11 wherein said first and second expansion-contraction means are slideably attached; and said first and second vertical expansion-contraction means are slideably attached.~~

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 wherein said one or more reinforcement members comprising the means for reinforcing the parallel studs between each pair of parallel studs comprises a box-like structure formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member also possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange; and

said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of constructing a multi-purpose construction panel comprising:

placing a plurality of vertical stud members of decreasing length, each possessing an upper terminal end and a lower terminal end, and parallel to each other;

attaching an anchoring means to the upper terminal end of said parallel stud members;

attaching a horizontal expansion-contraction means to the lower terminal end of said parallel stud members; and

inserting a means to reinforce the parallel studs between each pair of parallel vertical studs members.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 further comprising attaching a vertical expansion-contraction means to the longest terminal stud.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of constructing a multi-purpose construction panel comprising:

placing a plurality of vertical stud members of decreasing length, each possessing an upper terminal end and a lower terminal end, and parallel to each other;

attaching a first anchoring means to the upper terminal end of said parallel stud members;

attaching a second anchoring means to the lower terminal end of said parallel stud members;

attaching a vertical expansion-contraction expansion-compression means to the longest terminal vertical stud member; and

inserting a means to reinforce the parallel studs between each pair of parallel vertical studs members.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the means for reinforcing the parallel studs between each pair of parallel vertical studs members comprises a box-like structured formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange;

said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.

21. (New) A pre-fabricated multi-purpose construction panel comprising:

a plurality of parallel stud members of generally equal length;

at least one reinforcement member located between each stud member whereby said panel can support excessive loads due to weight, wind, or sheer forces;

a panel frame comprised of one or more horizontal or vertical expansion-contracting means slideably attached to said parallel stud members whereby said stud members will be able to expand or contract in response to horizontal or vertical environmental forces; and

said one or more horizontal or vertical expansion-contracting means are rigidly attached to each other.

22. (New) The pre-fabricated panel of claim 21 wherein said at least one reinforcement member comprises a box-like structure formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange; and

said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.

23. (New) A method of constructing a pre-fabricated multi-purpose construction panel comprising:

placing a plurality of generally equal length stud members possessing first and second terminal ends generally parallel to each other;

attaching a first expansion-contraction means to said first terminal ends;

attaching a second expansion-contraction means to said second terminal end;

attaching a first vertical expansion-contraction means to one of said plurality of stud members;

attaching a second vertical expansion-contraction means to another of said plurality of stud members;

rigidly securing said first and second expansion-contraction means to said first and second vertical expansion-contraction means; and

_____ inserting at least one means reinforcement member between said parallel studs.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said at least one reinforcement member comprises a box-like structure formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

_____ said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

_____ said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

_____ said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

_____ said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

_____ said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange; and

_____ said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.